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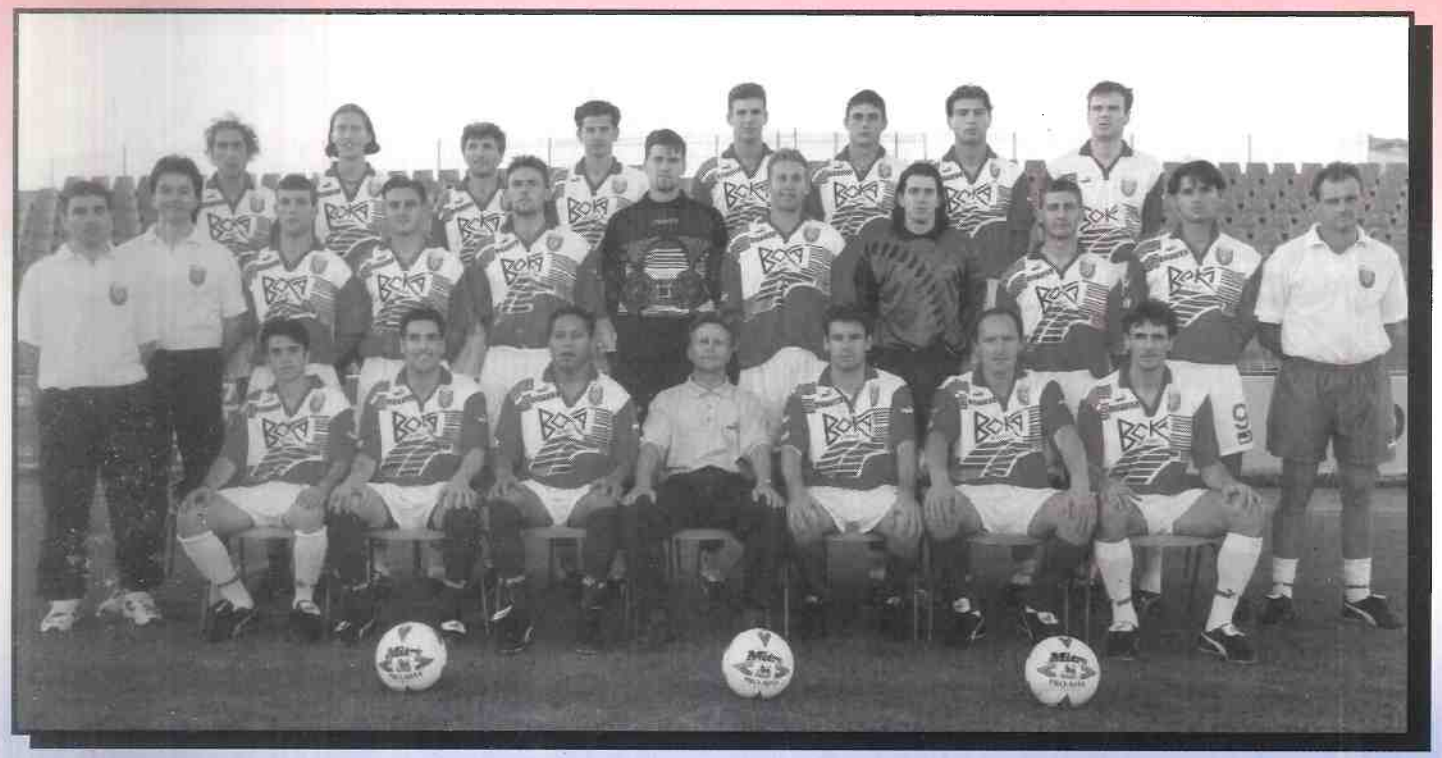

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V
SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Round 16 – Sunday 29 January 1995

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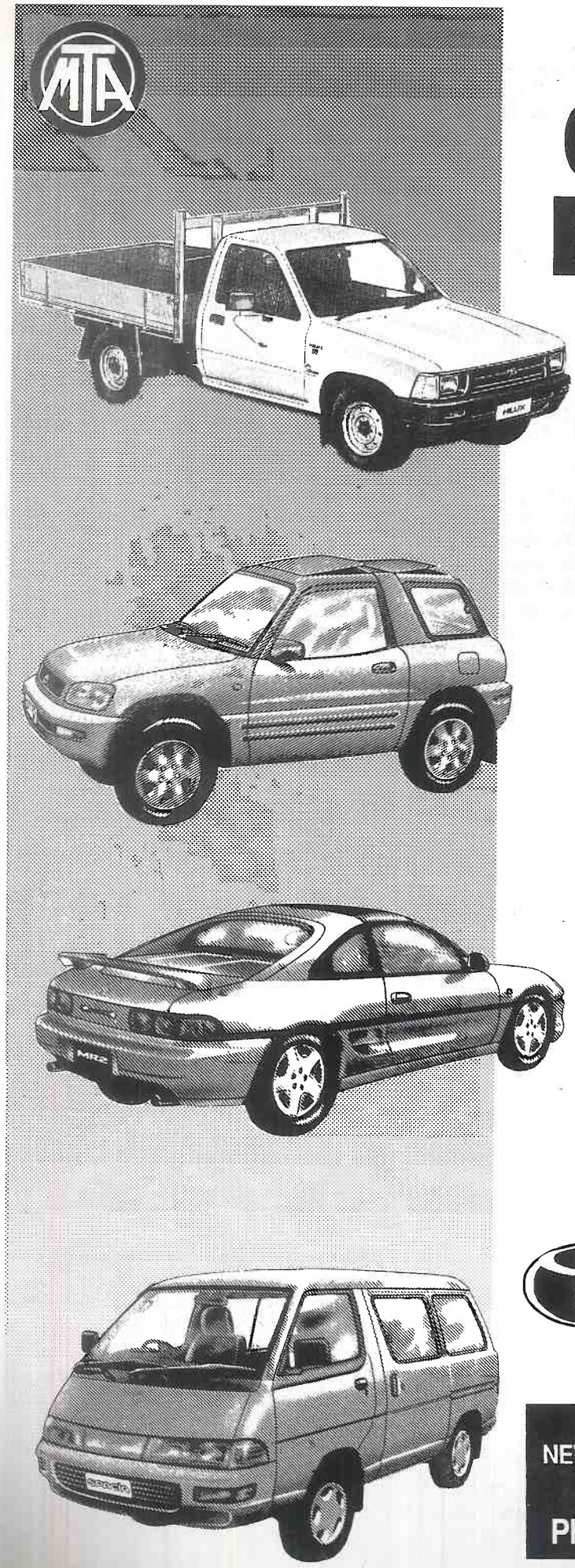

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29 January 1995
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EDITORIAL

HE follows me everywhere ...

I SEEM to be one of those unlucky people in life, you know the sort who whenever they go to a football game seem to be stuck next to the person who mouths off all during the game (and talks a lot of rubbish at the same time).

You must have experienced it also, the guy who slags the team no matter how well they are playing, doesn't like the crowd favourite, doesn't like the coach, in fact, just doesn't like period!

That's maybe one of the good, or bad, things about the press box – you tend to forget about the joy of being a 'real' fan in the hunt for which minute the goal was scored, who was booked, and what the press opinion on the referee is.

But for a treat I left the press box during the Olyroo v Japan match at Wollongong to 'savour' the atmosphere, and, yes that's right, HE was there.

No surprise, after all HE has been at every game I have ever been to – all over the world.

HIS comments were, as usual, bang off 'form'. "Mark Viduka," he laughed, "he's playing so bad that he wouldn't be included in the Wolves squad." That was in between a loud mouthed tirade of meaningless other trivia which his mates had to endure.

Wouldn't make the Wolves squad – Mark Viduka's transfer fee alone would buy the next three decade of Wollongong players!

And driving back to Sydney that night in a sea of swirling fog I had to concede that HE was entitled to his opinion.

After all HE had paid at the turnstile; I had snuck in on a press pass, one of the many freebies that journos enjoy.

OK, so I didn't necessarily agree with everything that HE said, but who cares? In the final analysis does it matter whether I like Mark Viduka or not, or any other opinion that I, or you, might have for that matter.

Everybody in football has their opinion – and is entitled to it, that is the good thing about sport – there is no right or wrong, it is just opinion.

But the trouble is when that opinion crosses the line and then becomes an attack on someone's character.

We've had more than our share of that recently as the whistle-blowers have come out of the closet to try and ruin game.

Me, I prefer the terrace loudmouth, the guy who follows me to every game. I don't have to read his opinion on the front page of every newspaper in the country – and I can always walk away if I so choose.

The other guy, well he is just so pathetic. His grandstanding nearly brought down the card deck until everyone realised at the last moment what was going on.

Now he is on the outer although the Stewart Report will be a testament to his folly, after all it is the guy who pays at the turnstile who is truly entitled to his opinion – it's his money that keeps the game going, even if we don't necessarily agree with that opinion.

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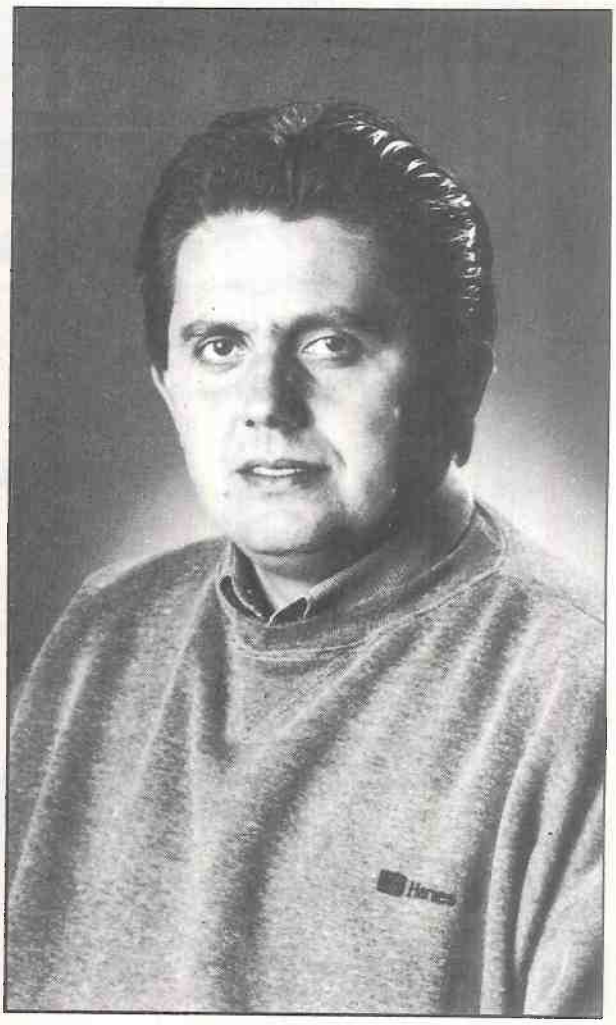

IVAN SIMIC: don't throw flares

CLUB PRESIDENT Ivan Simic has made an emotional plea to fans NOT to throw flares in tonight's match with Sydney Olympic.

"I know that this is going to be a terrific match," said Simic.

"Games between our two clubs are always big affairs and naturally emotions run hot.

"But please, resist any temptation to throw a flare.

"It doesn't reflect at all well on the club and only accomplishes one thing – a fine from the Australian Soccer Federation."

Many fans believe that it is only the home club which is fined for throwing flares but Mr Simic is quick to dispel that inaccuracy.

"That's right," he added.

"In our last match against Sydney Olympic at Leichhardt we were fined $2,000 by the ASF because our fans were responsible for throwing flares.

"I know that they look colourful and in European matches shown on SBS it looks as if they are adding to the atmosphere.

"But the reality is that they are dangerous and because of that the clubs took the decision to ban their use.

"Please, please do not throw flares. Enjoy the game, shout and cheer, yell whatever you want but if you see someone about to throw a flare point him out to a steward so that we can take action."

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

I would like to welcome our friends from Sydney Olympic to the Croatian Sports Centre for tonight's match and hope that the game is played in the same sportsmanlike manner which is typical of our past encounters.

Games between the two clubs are always big affairs, and like any derby game they carry that extra bit of bite.

They are also occasions when our normal crowd figure is considerably boosted.

And with both clubs in strong contention for the end of season play-offs we are looking forward to perhaps our biggest home crowd of the season – currently set by the West Sydney derby with Marconi.

It is vital for any club to make the play offs, not the least because it is a chance to extend a season which most consider too short.

Our own cause took a bit of a setback in our last game when we lost 3-0 away to Adelaide City.

It only serves to point out that this league is going to be a lot tighter than many experts predicted some four months ago.

At one stage Melbourne Knights looked unbeatable but even they have a chink in their armour.

But with still nearly a half of the season left to be played only two clubs are realistically out of the championship race.

We can't afford, therefore, to rest on our laurels and must ensure that we pick up as many points in the run home as possible.

Naturally we want to finish as high as possible and a third placing is definitely within our reach – maybe even more.

Ivan Simic, President,

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Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.
All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.
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now you're talking

Often the soccer press is cast in the role of villain but this time it proved a crusader as

Babic recall delights Thomson

ONE OF the club's outstanding players this season has been central defender Mark Babic and his form at the heart of the United back line seemed good enough to pencil his name in as an almost certain part of Eddie Thomson's Olyroo plans.

But that didn't happen and when the national coach left Babic out of his squad it resulted in an almost universal campaign to have him re-instated - on TV, radio and in the print media.

Thomson changed his mind and re-called Babic - and has since had plenty of opportunities to thank his lucky stars as Babic proved one of the few successes in a disappointing Olyroo Four Nation Tournament.

Babic got his chance to come into the starting line-up against Korea in Canberra and shone in a defence which included his Sydney United team mate, Ante Moric.

But Thomson used him in a different role that night, having him shadow the brilliant Korean striker Young Su Choi.

The Cheetahs forward has an awesome reputation at this level but at Bruce Stadium Mark Babic had him in his pocket for the entire ninety minutes.

So much so that Eddie Thomson was ecstatic about his performance.

"Mark is a very good player," said Thomson after the match.

"Tonight he played a very good game for us and certainly helped to tighten up the defence which wasn't very good in the tournament opener in Sydney"

Curiously Babic's previous appearance for the Olyroos was almost a year ago when he played in a friendly against J League club Urawa Red Diamonds - also in Canberra.

Since then, and despite a solid game, he has drifted out of national plans although Thomson said that he would have included the player in other games but that he had been unavailable.

"Mark adds something to our back line," Thomson conceded.

"He has got height and is an excellent tackler who also reads the game very well."

That is good news for one of the best players in the National Soccer League, a stand-out star in the 1991 Portugal World Youth Cup but a player who looked destined for international wilderness - but for the intervention of Sydney's often-maligned soccer media.

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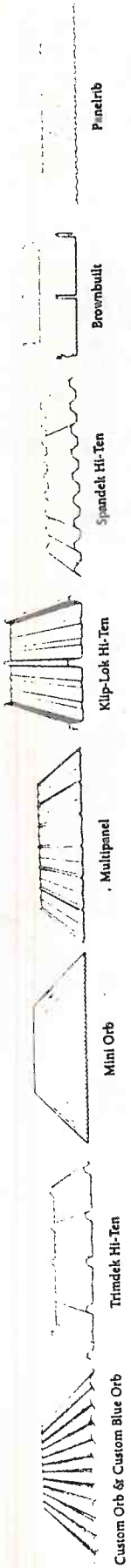

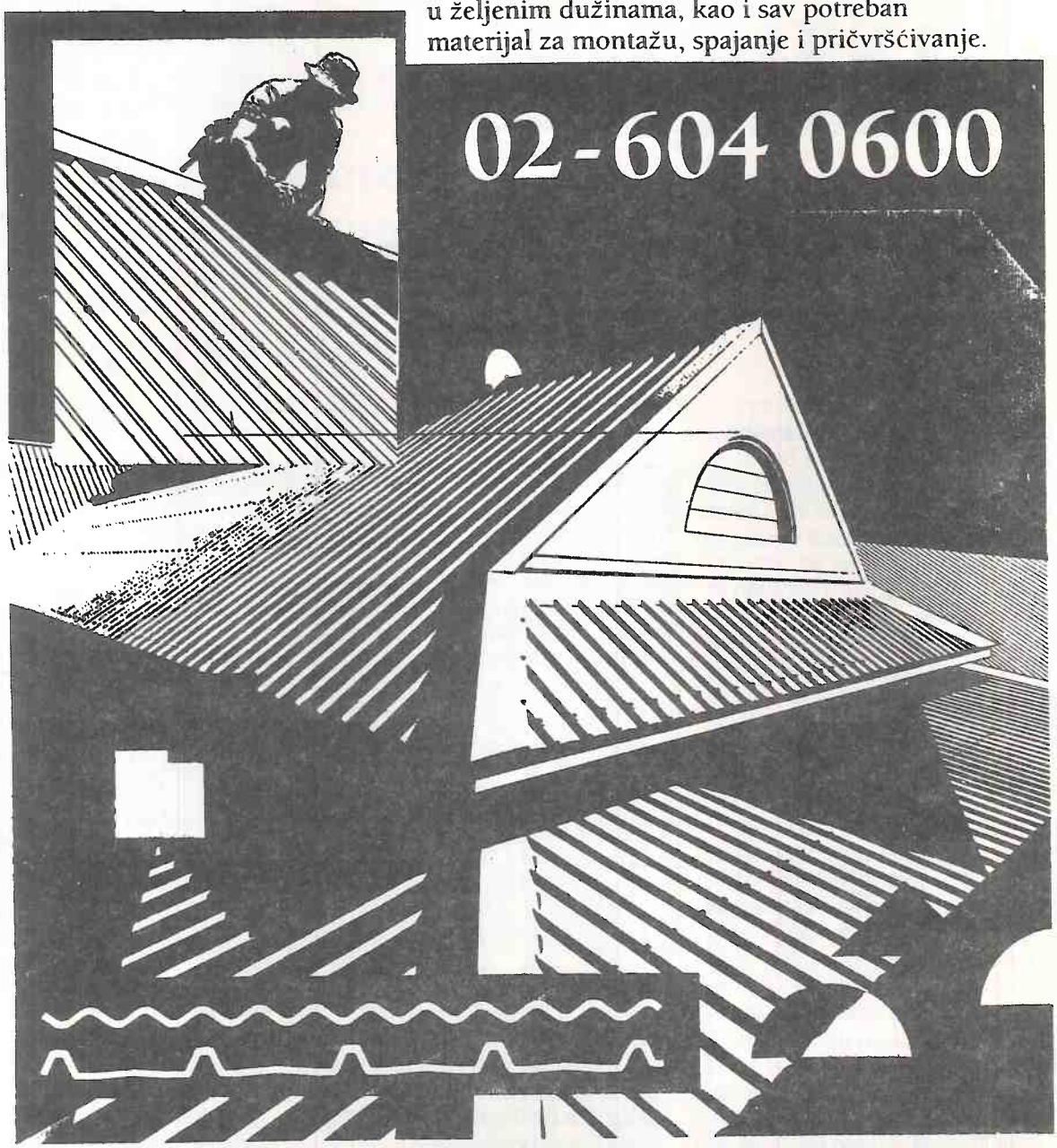

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Paul Bilokapic capped his nerves to make a great NSL start – and looks set to continue as one of

UNITED'S YOUNG GUNS

Paul Bilokapic has burst onto the NSL scene with a storm, another one of the many talented youngsters coming out of the Edensor Park production line in recent seasons.

Already he has captained his country at Under 17 level but says that that is all behind him.

"Time has past now," says the tough defender, "and I'm in the Young Socceroo (Under 20) squad now and just have to hope that all goes well from here."

But there is no doubt that the player who United have nursed along is set for a crack at stardom.

Before he made his NSL debut in the starting line-up Bilokapic sat on the bench for the whole game against Wollongong City, then came off the bench against Brisbane Strikers.

Both matches were draws and Sydney United took the extra points in penalty shoot-outs but Paul's full debut against Parramatta Eagles was a 1-0 win – marked by a Bilokapic goal.

"The nerves were definitely there," says Bilokapic of his start in the National League, "I had butterflies in my stomach but you have to put that aside. If you want to be in the first team you have to put all that aside and perform otherwise you won't be there next week.

"There is a big difference between NSL and the youth team. The pace is much quicker, the whole game is much more skilful and there is no doubt at all that it is a big jump."

Nerves played a big part if Paul Bilokapic's first full game and he remembers it well.

"For that first ten or fifteen minutes I was really nervous," he recalls.

"I wanted to do everything and rushed around a lot but as time moved on I started to slow down a lot and knocked the easy balls and in the end was quite happy with that game.

"We hadn't won for four games previous and although United had picked up those extra points from shoot-outs you can't rely on Zeljko Kalac all the time.

"In the end, we must take four points – one is not good enough.

"It's a dream to score on you NSL debut and it is something that I will always remember."

That goal capped a fine debut by Bilokapic, one in which he was universally singled out by the press for glowing attention.

Since then he has remained a part of the first team set-up and is looking to keep his shirt.

"That is a good thing about the club," he says, "they are willing to give youngsters a go and the coach believes in the young players.

"If the senior players don't do well then Branko Culina has put the youngsters in and if they do well then they keep their spot.

"Sydney United is definitely a developing club."

reported by
Mike Komadina

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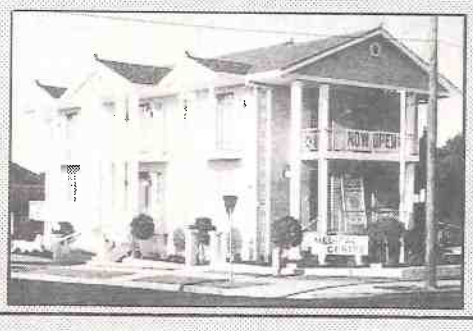

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SYDNEY UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

Aiming for the top – the 'scientific' way

MODERN football has placed many more demands on players and coaches than in former years and at Sydney United it is no different.

"I have to keep a wide range of statistics on all of our players," reveals coach Branko Culina.

"It isn't good enough any longer just to watch a game – we have to analyse it totally, noting down passes, shots at goal – anything to do with a player's performance. Then I can build up a real picture of my players."

Culina has also amassed a vast video library which he also constantly refers to in his search for excellence.

"I have always collected tapes of the game," he says.

"There is just so much that you can learn.

"I also get copies of tapes from SBS on our upcoming opponents so that I can fully go over what we need to do in our next game."

Culina's 'scientific' approach to 21st century football is just one of the reasons why the club has slammed its critics by playing some exciting and successful football this season.

"We all had a difficult job in front of us at the beginning of the season," he says.

"But the players are doing their stuff and we can only improve."

Branko has recently moved his family to Sydney from Melbourne as he takes the next step in making the centre of soccer his permanent home.

"That was a big move, but I'm glad that we have done it.

"Sydney United is a very good club and I am sure that we will achieve a lot during my three year contract period."

With the appointment of Mark Jukic as full-time General Manager and plans being developed for an extensive overseas tour in June this is shaping up to be an important year in the club's history.

And a permanent reminder to the season will be completed shortly when the roof goes on the new grandstand and interior work is completed.

For Branko Culina it is all part of the master plan that he plots so carefully to steer United to the top of Australian soccer.

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ROUND 14 v Adelaide City
(Hindmarsh Stadium)
Lost 0–3
UNITED: Kalac, Kupresak, Stanton, Rudan, Bilokapic (Vrkic 60), Moric, Hristodoulou, Petkovic, Plesa (Milicic ht), Zdrilic, Jermen.
Attendance: 4,500
Yellow Cards: Vrkic, Plesa, Rudan
Best Crow: Zeljko Kalac
League Position: 3rd
Match Summary: Adelaide City began and ended this game in the same style – like champions. The Zebras had class written all over them and from the fourth minute underlined the difference between the two clubs when Damian Mori lobbed a ball over the head of the advancing Kalac. A deflection from a harmless looking Lozanovski shot made it 2–0 and although Bilokapic could have pulled when back when he fluffed an easy chance veteran Melta wrapped the game up in the last ten minutes.

ROUND 13 v Morwell Falcons
(Sydney Croatian Sports Centre)
Drew 1–1
won on penalties
UNITED: Kalac, Kupresak, Stanton, Rudan, Bilokapic , Popovic, Hristodoulou, Petkovic (Jermen), Naumovski, Lamond, Zdrilic.
Attendance: 3,480
Yellow Cards: Nil
Best Crow: Zeljko Kalac
League Position: 3rd
Match Summary: Morwell Falcons came to Sydney with a reputation as the draw masters – but only a brilliant Mark Rudan header denied thee visitors full points. United seemed to be unable to cope with the surging runs of Brian Bothwell out of midfield and just before half time he put the Falcons in front with a drive that left Spider helpless. Bothwell continued to cause United problems and Sevin's pace was also largely unchecked. This was one of United's more mediocre displays but once again Kalac saved them in normal time, then in the shoot out and finally earned thee bonus point when he scored the Crows fifth penalty.

ROUND 16 MATCHES

Morwell Falcons v South Melbourne
Wollongong City v Brisbane Strikers
Parramatta Eagles v Marconi–Fairfield
West Adelaide v Melbourne Knights
Sydney United v Sydney Olympic
Melbourne SC v Adelaide City
Bye: Heidelberg United

PLAYER APPEARANCES:

Mark Babic 11
Shaun (Zeljko) Babic 7
Paul Bilokapic 7
Eric Hristodoulou 13
Mario Jermen 3
Zeljko Kalac 13
Velimir Kupresak 12
Manis Lamond 8
Ante Milicic 11
Ante Moric 9
Ljupco Naumovski 12
Ivan Petkovic 10
Richard Plesa 1
Tony Popovic 11
Mark Rudan 8
Robbie Stanton 13
Dominic Usalj 1
Joe Vrkic 2
David Zdrilic 13
TOTAL PLAYERS USED TO DATE: 19

SCORERS:

5 David ZDRILIC
2 Shaun BABIC, Manis LAMOND, Ante MILICIC
1 Paul BILOKAPIC, Eric HRISTODOULOU, Ante Moric, Mark RUDAN

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 14
Morwell Falcons 2 (Spink, Ferriera)
Heidelberg United 1 (Despotovski)
Venue: Morwell Stadium
Attendance: 1,937
Referee: Mr J Rutter

Sydney Olympic 1 (Johnston)
Parramatta Eagles 2 (Sprod, G Gunning)
Venue: Leichhardt Stadium
Attendance: 4,200
Referee: Mr C Diomis

Melbourne Knights 0
Wollongong City 1 (Bradley)
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Attendance: 2,500
Referee: Mr G Connolly

South Melbourne 1 (Petersen)
Brisbane Strikers 0
Venue: Olympic Park
Attendance: 4,393
Referee: Mr B Hugo

Adelaide City 3 (Mori, Lozanovski, Melta)
Sydney United 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Attendance: 4,500
Referee: Mr J Fraser

Marconi-Fairfield 0
West Adelaide 0
*Marconi won on penalties
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Attendance: 4,196
Referee: Mr D Prentice

ROUND 13
Sydney United 1 (Rudan)
Morwell Falcons 1 (Bothwell)
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Attendance: 3,480
Referee: Mr J Papanicolas

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 12	P	W	D	PW	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	12	9	1	1	2	27	12	38
Adelaide City	11	8	3	1	0	21	7	36
Sydney United	11	6	3	2	2	15	7	29
West Adelaide	11	5	2	2	4	12	12	24
Parramatta Eagles	12	5	2	1	5	13	13	23
Brisbane Strikers	11	4	4	2	3	13	7	22
Sydney Olympic	11	4	4	1	3	11	11	21
Morwell Falcons	11	2	7	3	2	14	15	18
Wollongong City	11	3	3	1	5	14	18	16
South Melbourne	12	3	2	1	7	22	22	15
Marconi-Fairfield	11	2	3	2	6	12	18	13
Heidelberg United	11	2	1	0	8	8	22	9
Melbourne SC	11	1	3	2	7	7	25	9

*There is no relegation at the end of the 94/95 season when Canberra and Perth are expected to be admitted.
Games drawn at the end of normal time are decided in a penalty shoot-out.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE (N)

ROUND 14	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	14	11	2	1	32	9	35
Australian Institute	13	11	1	1	47	11	34
Parramatta Eagles	14	10	0	4	34	21	30
Sydney Olympic	14	9	1	4	41	17	28
Queensland Academy	14	8	1	5	39	28	25
Marconi-Fairfield	14	7	2	5	29	20	23
Wollongong City	12	7	1	4	34	21	22
Sydney Olympic Colts	14	6	2	6	21	22	20
ACT Academy	13	5	2	6	24	19	17
Northern NSW Lions	13	5	0	8	21	31	15
Soccer NSW ITC	13	3	1	9	12	28	10
Marconi Academy	14	1	4	9	14	51	7
Parramatta Colts	14	1	3	10	16	37	6
Sydney United Colts	14	1	0	13	16	65	3

The Next NSL Match at the Croatian Sports Centre is
v
Melbourne Knights
Sunday, 12 February, 1995

SYDNEY UNITED

Croatian Sports Centre,
Sydney

FORMED: 1958

CLUB HONOURS:
Australian National Championship
Runners Up 1988
Multiquip Cup Winners 1994

NSW State Champions 1977,78,79,81,82
Grand Final Winners 1977,82,83
Rothmans Cup Winners 1974
Beach Fashions Cup Winners 1987
Ampol Cup Winners 1979,86

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Red Shirts with Blue & White flashes
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Blue Socks

COACH;
Branko Culina

SCORERS, SUBSTITUTIONS, CAUTIONS, NOTES

Zeljko Kalac – 1
Robert Stanton – 2
Velimir Kupresak – 3
G (Captain) Tony Popovic – 4
Mark Babic – 5
Ljupco Naumovski – 6
Ivan Petkovic – 7 S
Ante Moric – 8
Tony Krslovic – 9
Ante Milicic –10
Eric Hristodoulou – 11
Mark Rudan – 12
Mario Jerman – 13 S
David Zdrilic – 14
Zeljko Babic – 15
Manis Lamond – 16
Paul Bilokapic – 17
Richard Plesa – 18
Joe Vrkic – 19
Domenic Usalj – 20
Chad Gibson – 21
John Perosh – 22 S
Lou Trajceski – 23

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SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Sunday,
12th February, 1995

1 – Mike Gibson
2 – David Barrett
3 – Elias Augerinos
4 – Tony Spyridakos
5 – George Sorras
6 – Peter Tsekenis
7 – Joe Bacak
8 – Branko Milosevic
9 – Glen Johnson
10 – Norman Tome
11 – Derek Poimer
12 – Vlado Radic
13 – Ante Juric
14 – Brad Maloney
15 – Nick Meredith
16 – Grant Lee
17 – Angelo Petratos
18 – Harry James
19 – Jose Mendes
20 – George Bouhoutsos
21 JOE CALETA
22 ~~JOE CALETA~~ DAMIAN SMITH
23
24 FLAVIO NAVARRO

FORMED: 1957

CLUB HONOURS:
Australian National Championship:
Winners: 1990
Runners Up: 1984, 86, 89
National League Cup
Winners:
1983, 85
Runners Up:
1989, 90

NSW Div 2
Winners: 1960

CLUB AWAY COLOURS;
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White Shorts
White Socks

COACH;
Vince Estavillio

SCORERS, SUBSTITUTIONS, CAUTIONS, NOTES

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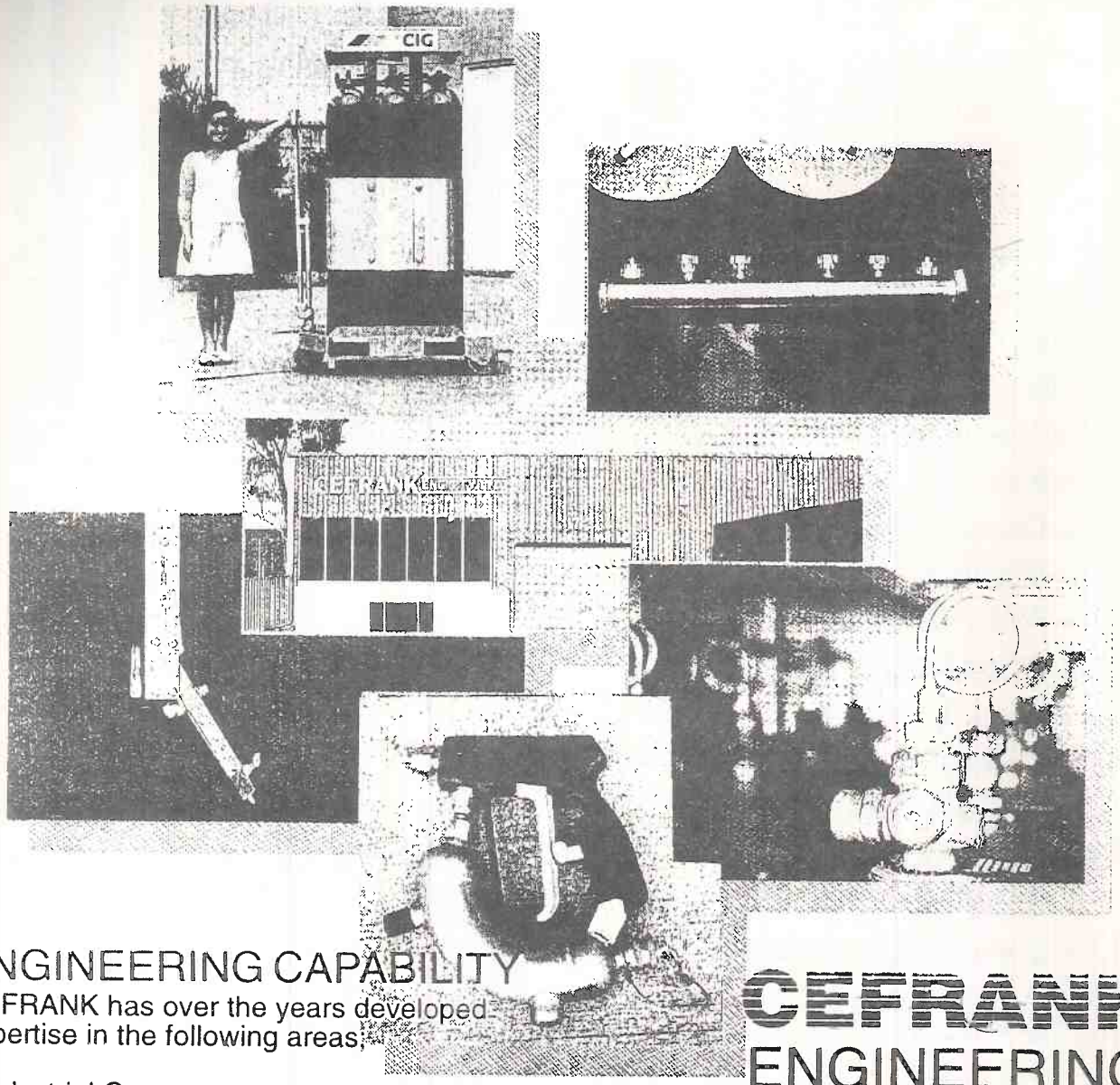

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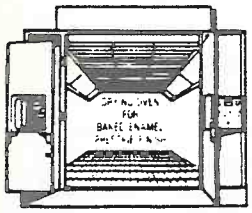

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For the record.....

Mark Babic and Ante Moric got Sydney United's continuing supply of players to the national cause off to its by-now accustomed start for the year in the Olympic Four Nations Tournament.

And for the record the total number of Olyroo games that the pair played is as follows;

Australia v Denmark 1-3
Sydney Football Stadium
Ante Moric played and scored.

Australia v South Korea 1-1
Bruce Stadium, Canberra
Ante Moric, Mark Babic both played

Australia v Japan 2-1
Brandon Park, Wollongong
Mark Babic played

Australia v Japan 3-1
Sydney Football Stadium
3rd place play off
Ante Moric, Mark Babic both played

STOP PRESS
Sydney United romped in 5-0 against a young Singapore Olympic team at Deakin Park, Canberra on Thursday in front of a small attendance of 200. Goals were scored by Lamond, Milicic, Petkovic, Jermen and an own goal.

SMOKING
WHO NEEDS IT?
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A Federal and State initiative

Spider – he's still King of the Keepers

"I WAS a bit disappointed," says goalkeeper Spider Kalac of his on-again, off-again move to English club Norwich City, "but that's football and you just have to get on with it."

The tall fellow's move to the big time was thwarted at the last moment when the English Football Association ruled that he didn't have enough international appearances to qualify for a work permit.

But with Australia due to play three full A internationals next month that could all change.

"I guess if I played in the games then I might qualify, but that's up to Eddie Thomson and I'll just have to take it as it comes," he said.

With two games against Colombia and another against Japan at the Sydney Football Stadium Kalac has the perfect opportunity to boost his international record.

And at present he is the undisputed 'King of the Keepers' with Thomson having no hesitation in putting his name down first in his squad selection.

Kalac's pragmatic attitude is also a bonus for his club with coach Branko Culina being concerned at one stage that he would become despondent over the breakdown of the Norwich deal.

"I was a bit worried," at one stage admitted Culina. "But Spider handled it all really well.

"His chance will come again, of that I am absolutely sure."

In the meantime Sydney United's terraces' hero has the opportunity of pushing the club further down the road to another finals appearance – and at the same time boosting his case for English work permit qualification.

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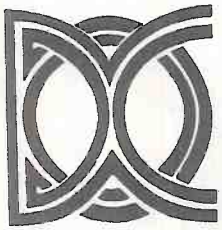

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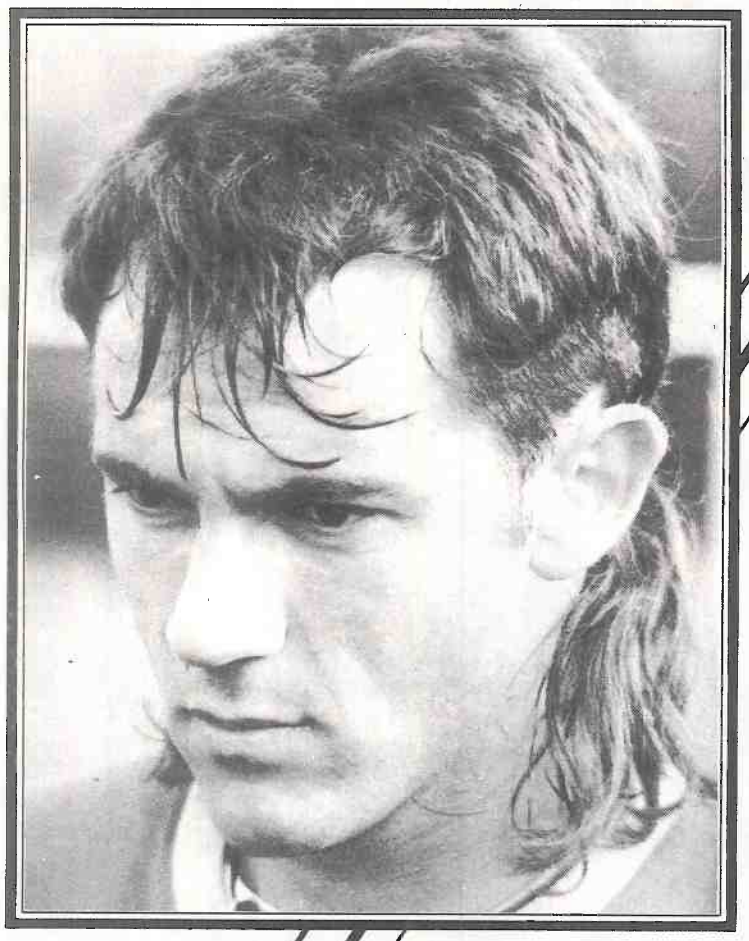

THE FOOTBALL FILE:
Born: 23 June 1970, Sydney
Position: Midfielder
Previous Club/s: Sydney Olympic
NSL Debut: 1988
International Honours: Australia Under 23s (Olyroos)
Who Gave Me My First Big Break: Eddie Thomson
Who Helped Me In My Early Development: my father and Alan Vest
What I Remember About My First NSL Match: coach's advice – 'Play your game, my son'
Best Goal I've Scored: against Marconi in the 89/90 season for Olympic – it was the match winner
Biggest Disappointment: Not going to Barcelona with the Olyroos
What I Like Most About NSL Football: It's competitiveness

THE PERSONALITY FILE:
My Type of Music: a little bit of this and a little bit of that
Favourite Band/Singer: Kylie Minogue (what a brave man! – Ed)
What I Think of Aussie Soapies: Crap!
My Dislikes: smoking
My Favourite Food and Drink: everything
My Favourite Other Sports: fishing
My Favourite TV Show: Seinfeld
My Favourite Part of Australia: home
My Future Ambitions: To win something with the Crows
What I Would Be Doing Now If I Was A United Star: fishing

compiled by Mike Komadina

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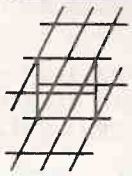

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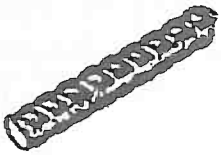

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Stars on the world stage

ROBBIE STANTON: featured on world soccer TV magazine, *Futbol Mundial*

SYDNEY UNITED are set to be shown as a feature on the highly rated TV magazine programme, *Futbol Mundial.*

Negotiations have been conducted to screen the world soccer news show on SBS and recently producer Tony Davies was in town to film the high flying Crows.

"I am really impressed with Australian soccer," said Tony.

"It has a good base and the youth development is obviously first class.

"That is something which most European countries, including England, don't have."

Davies was also impressed with the set-up at Sydney United where he took time out with his camera man James Saligari to shoot the club's game against Morwell Falcons as well as a special feature on defender Robbie Stanton.

SYDNEY UNITED *NSL Record & Fixture List*

DATE	OPPONENT & CROWD	SCORE
30 Oct	Adelaide City (H) (5,228) lost in a penalty tie-breaker	D 0-0
06 Nov	Sydney Olympic (A) (4,240)	W 2-0
13 Nov	Marconi-Fairfield (H) (5,861)	W 3-0
20 Nov	Melbourne Knights (A) (7,525)	L 1-4
25 Nov	Brisbane Strikers (H) (2,430) won in a penalty tie-breaker	D 0-0
02 Dec	Wollongong City (A) (3,692) won in a penalty tie-breaker	D 1-1
09 Dec	West Adelaide (H) (1,200)	L 0-1
18 Dec	Parramatta Eagles (A) (4,764)	W 1-0
27 Dec	South Melbourne (H) (3,250)	W 2-1
02 Jan	Melbourne Zebras (H) (1,000)	W 2-0
06 Jan	Heidelberg United (A) (6,572)	W 3-0
15 Jan	Morwell Falcons (H) (3,480) won in a penalty tie breaker	D 1-1
22 Jan	Adelaide City (A) (4,500)	L 0-3
29 Jan	Sydney Olympic (H)	
05 Feb	Marconi Fairfield (A)	
12 Feb	Melbourne Knights (H)	
18 Feb	Brisbane Strikers (A)	
26 Feb	Wollongong City (H)	
05 Mar	West Adelaide (A)	
12 Mar	Parramatta Eagles (H)	
17 Mar	South Melbourne (A)	
24 Mar	Melbourne Zebras (A)	
02 Apr	Heidelberg United (H)	
09 Apr	Morwell Falcons (A)	

YOUTH TEAM DIGEST

ROUND 15
Sydney United Colts 1 (Usalj)
Sydney United 4 (S Babic 2, Dewhurst, Burns)

ROUND 14
Sydney United 2 (S Babic, Krslovic)
Northern NSW Lions 0

Sydney Olympic Colts 4
Sydney United Colts 0

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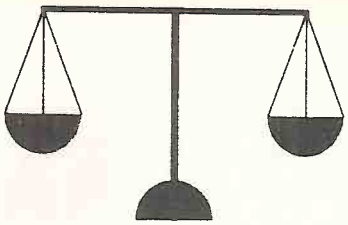

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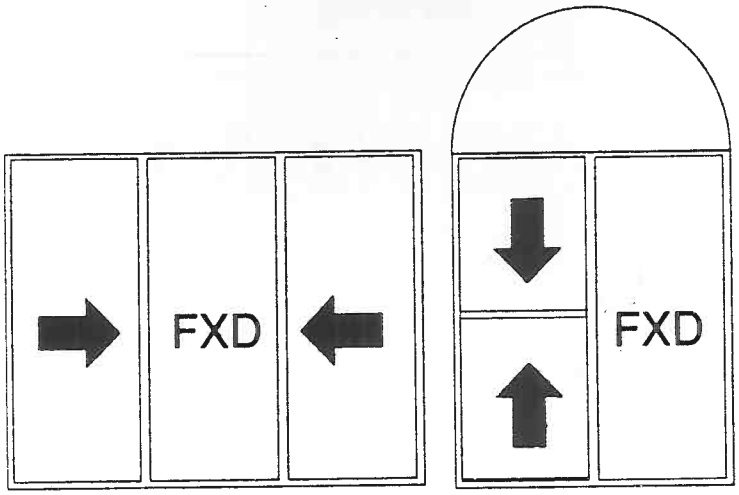

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